



Niagara Falls & Western New York

Experience the Erie Canal, Finger Lakes, and Niagara Falls from Both Sides of the Border

Cruise through awesome locks and stunning scenery on the iconic Erie Canal into the heart of New York State! From the sparkling waters of the Finger Lakes through to the powerful cascades of Niagara Falls, breathtaking maritime beauty awaits you. Experience the Falls from amazing perspectives, on the U.S. and Canada sides. The observation tower above Niagara Gorge, the Maid of the Mist cruise ship below, and the AAA four-

diamond hotel Marriott Gateway on the Falls just 200 yards from the brink—we just know you'll be mesmerized by every view! Along the way, travel off the beaten path to meet fascinating folks—horse trainers, dairy and fruit farmers and more—who share the colorful past and present of their communities.

7 Days • 6 Nights • 11 Meals

Depart/Return: Buffalo, NY

CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/NYE

Day 1—Buffalo Welcome to Buffalo, a friendly community on Lake Erie, where you will meet your fellow travelers for a get-acquainted reception. *Accommodations:* Hilton Garden Inn Buffalo Airport, Cheektowaga. Welcome Reception.

Day 2—Buffalo/Lockport In the historic community of Lockport on the Erie Canal, see a dozen dazzling stained glass windows made by world-renowned Tiffany craftsmen at First Presbyterian Church. Next, board a delightful ferry for a cruise on the iconic Erie Canal! The 363-mile canal, built from 1817 to 1825, was an engineering marvel in its time and established New York State as the international center of commerce and finance it is today. During two unforgettable hours, we'll "lock through" enormous locks that raise and lower ships, allowing them to pass from Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean. See water cascade over Lockport's famous "Flight of Five." Later, we're on track for a model train exhibit at Medina Railroad Museum in the New York Central freight depot. Model train enthusiasts will admire the HO-scale model train and diorama. At 204 feet long by 14 feet wide, it's one of the world's



Maid of the Mist

longest, spread out all on one floor! We round off the afternoon with a tasty and colorful stop at Hurd Orchards, as pristine an orchard and flower farm as you'll ever find in upstate New York. **Accommodations:** Doubletree Hilton, Rochester. **Meals:** B, L.

Day 3—Erie Canal/Seneca Falls Travel among peaceful rolling hills to the tiny town of Honeoye Falls. Stop in to visit the EquiCenter at the William and Mildred Levine Ranch. You'll be touched by the heartwarming story of how the center is enriching the lives of people with developmental disabilities by training them in the skills of horsemanship. Mark and Sharon Gilbride and their herd of Huacaya Alpacas welcome us next. You'll feel like these animals are smiling at you as Mark shows off their

gentle disposition at their Lazy Acres Alpacas Ranch situated amongst the rolling foothills of the Finger Lakes. Afterward, board the Canandaigua Lady, the region's only authentic paddlewheel boat, at Steamboat Landing for a relaxing cruise on its namesake lake. With the local vineyards, majestic hills, lakefront estates and breathtaking views, Canandaigua Lake has become one of the wealthiest regions in the country. This afternoon, we'll visit one of the region's largest and most modern farms, and then experience first-hand the beginning of the Women's Movement at the Women's Rights National Historic Park. Our day ends right next door to the park in Seneca Falls at the Hotel Clarence, a European style hotel. This is the friendly, small town that residents believe inspired "Bedford Falls" from the classic movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. **Accommodations:** Gould Hotel, Seneca Falls. **Meals:** B, D.

Day 4—Seneca Falls/Ellicottville Take a step back in time on our visit to the Finger Lakes region. Our first stop, the charming village of Geneva, nestled on the shores of Seneca Lake, boasts the Prettiest Street in America! Later, meet a local Mennonite farm family and learn what their life is like. Ivan and Eva Martin will give us a personal tour of their home-grown produce operation and treat us to a tasty cookie. At Bully Hill Vineyard, in Hammondsport, enjoy lunch followed by a wine tasting and an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour—the winery's picturesquely set high above Keuka Lake. In Angelica's quaint town circle (a scene Norman Rockwell would be proud of), we experience the old-time sport of Roque...a version of Croquet. Arrive in the colorful ski community of Ellicottville—the town's restaurant district is within easy walking distance. **Accommodations:** Wingate by Wyndham, Ellicottville. **Meals:** B, L.

Day 5—Ellicottville/Amherst Visit the hometown of legendary comedian Lucille

Ball and the museum that pays tribute to her career. You'll delight in vintage memorabilia and some of the most famous sets from the beloved 1950s sitcom, *I Love Lucy*. After lunch at Cherry Creek Inn, we travel to Amish Country to stop at the Hoestetler Quilt & Gift shop, located on the family's hillside cattle and goat farm. We will also visit a fascinating sawmill that operates

without electricity. Later, we'll be "abuzz" with excitement at the Original American Kazoo Company—North America's first and only metal kazoo factory. Discover amusing trivia and see how the original 1916 technology is still used today to produce the unusual-sounding musical instruments. Amherst will be our home for the night. **Accommodations:** Marriott Buffalo Niagara, Amherst. **Meals:** B, L.

Day 6—Amherst/Niagara on the Lake, Ontario

Dating back to the 1600s, visitors have been mesmerized by 2,600-foot wide Horseshoe Falls and 1,060-foot American Falls that make up Niagara Falls. From the 282-foot-tall observation ledge, which extends over Niagara Gorge, enjoy stunning views of both falls simultaneously! Afterward, board Niagara's famous *Maid of the Mist* boat for a cruise in the pool of the cascading waters. Don't worry, "rain" ponchos are provided! Our lunch stop today is the oldest golf course in North America, overlooking the shores of Lake Ontario...and in the charming town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, often called the loveliest town in Ontario. Then, enjoy free time and a narrated riding tour of this historic city, as we'll see Ft. George, Navy Hall, the Commons, Shaw Festival Theater and Butlers Barracks. Arrive at Marriott Gateway on the Falls hotel, a world-renowned AAA four-diamond hotel, located just 200 yards from the brink of Niagara Falls. The view will take your breath away! **Accommodations:** Marriott Gateway on the Falls, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. **Meals:** B, L.

Day 7—Buffalo Return home overflowing with wonderful memories of Niagara Falls, Erie Canal and Western New York. **Meals:** B.



Queenston Park/Ontario Tourism MPC

Passport to the "Loveliest Town in Ontario"

On Day 6, we will cross the border to view the Falls from the Canada side and tour famed sites of historic Niagara on the Lake, including Queens Royal Park, Fort Niagara, and Brock's Monument. We'll lunch at North America's oldest golf course, picturesquely situated along Lake Ontario. A valid passport will be required.